

Remarks

In the Office Action dated October 3, 2000, the Patent Office rejected claims 1, 3-5, 10, 18, 20-22, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), and rejected claims 2, 8, 9, 13, 14-17, 19, 25, 26, and 30-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 6, 7, 11, 12, 23, 24, 28, and 29 were objected to as being dependent on rejected claims, but "would be allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims."

Applicants respectfully request that claims 1-34 be canceled without prejudice. Applicants expressly reserve the right to prosecute in a subsequent application any and all of claims 1-34 not allowed by the Patent Office during prosecution of the instant application.

Claims 35-42 have been added in order to comply with the requirement by the Patent Office that the allowable claims be rewritten to include the limitations of any rejected base claims and any intervening claims.

Applicants believe the subject application has been placed in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. Please charge appropriate fees, if any, to Deposit Account 16-1150.

Respectfully submitted;

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